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THE NUMBER of botanical articles in *Science* has greatly increased during the present year. Rarely an issue now appears without considerable space devoted to some phase of botany.

A NEW CATALOGUE of microscopes and accessories has been published by the Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. recently, which contains a number of interesting novelties. The cheapness and fine workmanship of their instruments are equally to be commended. Beside new microscope accessories, some excellent bacteriological apparatus is listed, and also a remarkably long series of microscopic preparations.

THE SEPTEMBER NUMBER of *Scribner's Magazine* contains the unusual number of seven elaborately illustrated articles. One of the most interesting is that in reference to the Tilden library. It is well known that the late Samuel J. Tilden bequeathed his great fortune to trustees, with the intention of founding in New York a great library—confiding all details to the discretion of the three trustees whom he selected, Messrs. John Bigelow, Andrew H. Green, and George W. Smith. The Court of Appeals held that the discretion was too general and the will void. During the long process of the lawsuit over the will, the lips of the trustees were naturally sealed as to what were the details of the project; but now that the decision has been reached they are freed from any such restriction—more especially as, by a fortunate arrangement with one of the successful heirs, they are still left in possession of a sum large in itself and sufficient to carry out an important portion of the design. Ex-Minister John Bigelow, one of the trustees, has therefore now decided to publish in this number of the *Magazine*, under the title "The Tilden Trust Library; What Shall It Be?" the facts concerning Mr. Tilden's wishes as to the details of the plan, and also a most important proposal for still carrying out a large part of it by the erection of a great library building in the very center of New York.

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